

May 2006

NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Robert Wideman

By: Lt. Jerry Seevers

## Overview

May is the time of year when traffic and tourism begins to pick up in earnest. The Northern Command responded with various special enforcement campaigns, including the annual "Click it or Ticket," occupant restraint (seatbelt) safety focus. Nevada is now ranked near the top of the country in occupant restraint compliance. As such, the actual number of citations issued during the month of May decrease from last year. Officers spent many hours educating the motoring public as to the importance of buckling up.

The region did have three fatality crashes during the month. Although this did break the two-month trend of no fatal crashes, the region is still below last year's totals. Major construction projects have been completed in the "spaghetti bowl," area in the Reno. Fernley continues to lead the percentage of population growth and crash increases. The Fernley District had a road project, round a bout, partially completed. This project should relieve traffic congestion when completed. Total crashes only increased by 2 over last year and 5 over last month.

Enforcement efforts were mixed for the month of May. Total violations were down by 8.5% from last year, but up 5.4% for last month. However, there were more people arrested when compared to last year, but fewer than last month. There is a correlation between the two, due to the increase in time taken away from the road to arrest a person and write a report, versus the time it takes to write citations. There was an increase in DUI crashes by 15 when compared to last year and 3 compared to last month. The region also lost numerous hours of enforcement time due to leave, special assignments, and retirements. The Carson District was affected by the retirement of 2 troopers, 12% of the assigned workforce.

The Commercial Enforcement Section's enforcement efforts remain solid. The troopers are ahead of most goals for the federal fiscal year. Hazardous material enforcement and motor coach inspections were specifically targeted for enforcement and education during the month.

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## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	May 2006		May 2005	% Change		Apr 2006	% Change
Total Crashes	345		343	0.6%		340	1.5%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	226		222	1.8%		235	-3.8%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	116		118	-1.7%		105	10.5%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	3		4	-25.0%		0	300.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	24		9	166.7%		21	14.3%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	3		5	-40.0%		0	300.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		2	-50.0%		0	100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	2		2	0.0%		0	200.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	24		19	26.3%		18	33.3%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	13		15	-13.3%		14	-7.1%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	11		3	266.7%		4	175.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.9%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 7.0%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 33.3%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 7.0%

### CRASH ANALYSIS:

The region crash totals remained very similar when compared to last month and last year. There were 345 crashes this month compared to 340 last month, and 343 last year. Fernley continues to lead the trend in percentage of increase, due to the population increase and continued road construction.

There were 3 fatality crashes. Although this does break the 2-month trend of no fatality crashes, it is still lower than the 4 fatal crashes for the same period last year. The region has 4 fewer fatal crashes year to date.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	May 2006		May 2005	% Change		April 2006	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	24		9	166.7%		21	14.3%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	102		108	-5.6%		118	-13.6%
Other Arrests	515		431	19.5%		542	-5.0%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	246		208	18.3%		258	-4.7%
Speed violations	2130		2461	-13.4%		2140	-0.5%
Hazardous moving violations	744		758	-1.8%		728	2.2%
Occupant restraint violations *	417		675	-38.2%		365	14.2%
Total violations [above violations included]	5830		6375	-8.5%		5531	5.4%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	50		63	-20.6%		73	-31.5%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	58		47	23.4%		54	7.4%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	884		687	28.7%		724	22.1%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	391		364	7.4%		307	27.4%
Total safety violations -- repair order	3019		2000	51.0%		2576	17.2%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	109		113	-3.5%		57	91.2%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	80		53	50.9%		119	-32.8%
Total school buses inspected	189		103	83.5%		117	61.5%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	45		50	-10.0%		22	104.5%
Total trucks weighed	619		191	224.1%		414	49.5%
Total overweight citations	60		48	25.0%		53	13.2%
Total dyed fuel inspections	538		498	8.0%		381	41.2%
Total dyed fuel citations	4		1	300.0%		0	400.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Enforcement efforts were mixed for the month of May. Total violations were down by 8.5% from last year, but up 5.4% for last month. However, there were more people arrested when compared to last year, but fewer than last month. There is a correlation between the two, due to the increase in time taken away from the road to arrest a person and write a report, versus the time it takes to write citations.

The Commercial Enforcement Section's enforcement efforts remain solid. The troopers are ahead of most goals for the federal fiscal year.

## **RENO URBAN TRAFFIC**

The Reno Urban area was staffed with 35 troopers during the month of May. However, that number is not a true reflection of the number of available units due to the training and orientation of two new troopers in the urban area, and one in the rural area. The available manpower will show a decrease beginning next month due to a trooper's transfer, the reassignment of two troopers to the newly created ICE Team and the resignation of trooper.

Once again, the urban area had a reduction in crashes over last month and last year. There was a 16% decrease from last month and a 14% decrease from the same period last year. Most of the decrease can be attributed to the completion of the construction projects that have plagued the area for nearly four years.

Total enforcement activity is up in some areas and down in others. Total violations were up by nearly 8%, while DUI arrests were down by 12% from last month, but up by 12% for the same period last year.

## **CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN**

For the month of May, the Carson/Tahoe/Minden District showed an increase in overall crashes with the exception of property damage crashes related to last year and injury crashes related to last month. Property damage crashes compared to last year decreased by 2.8% and injury related crashes compared to last month decreased by 15.6% month respectfully.

For the month of May, CTM, along with SIRT, investigated two (2) fatal accidents and two (2) serious injury accidents. The first fatality occurred on the US-395 by-pass approaching US-50. The first accident was a single occupant single vehicle fatality. The second fatality occurred on SR-208 at Albite in Douglas County. Both vehicles were single vehicle occupants. The two (2) serious injury accidents occurred on Sr-341 and US-50 West. Additionally, an occupant from a serious injury accident in April perished during the month of May, causing investigators to follow-up on this accident further. The investigation revealed that the 90-year-old occupant perished due to natural causes not related to the accident.

CTM's enforcement activities have increased on average by nearly 41% in DUI Arrests from Crashes, Other Arrests and Total Arrests compared to both last month and last year. However, a slight decrease is noted in Hazardous Moving, Occupant Restraint Violations as well as DUI prior to Crash compared to last month by an average of approximately 15 percent from May. Again, due to scheduled leave, training, as well as two (2) troopers retiring unexpectedly, both day and swing shift was capable of conducting four (4) directive enforcement assignments for May.

Additionally, CTM has been experiencing various issues with the construction at US 50 East in the Dayton area. These issues alleged, range from extended traffic delays, congestion, poorly devised traffic routing, as well as various other issues. Due to the extent of these complaints, residents have brought this issue to the Office of the Governor for review. CTM has been working with both NDOT and the contractor to minimize these issues.

The CTM area has experienced staffing issues due to loss of two (2) troopers, training (both given and received), leave and PSTO training. It is anticipated that the CTM area will be receiving a new trooper from Parole and Probation in July 2006. The officer should be operational by mid-August if training and PSTO goes according to plans.



## **FERNLEY/FALLON**

The Fernley/Fallon District reported a 27% increase in crashes compared to last year and a 58% increase compared to last month. The increase in crashes is comprised of a 25% increase in property crashes and a 38% increase in injury crashes but fortunately fatal crashes were down 50% compared to last year and 100% compared to last month. The Fallon area crashes were down 16% and the increase in the District's crashes occurred in the Fernley area.

Fernley area crashes were up by 80% over last month and 69% over last year. There were no fatal crashes; however, there were 15 injury crashes and 39 property crashes. No specific trends can be determined by comparison to the past six months and the same six months last year. Of the 54 crashes investigated, 17 occurred on I80, of those 17, 13 were non-collision crashes. Of the 54, 8 occurred within the city limits and 6 occurred off our area beats.

The rise in the area's crash numbers can be attributed to several reasons. Summer is here and we are seeing the volume of traffic begin to increase as the general public begins to move outdoors again, specifically Lake Lahontan State Park, Sand Mountain, the Fernley racetrack, Fallon, Las Vegas and Elko. Fernley is the hub to reach all of these destinations. The summer's first 3 day holiday weekend resulted in 8 crashes. Adding to these issues is the reported 18.7% increase in population over the past 12 months, a trend that will continue to cause a mass influx of traffic coming into the area.

The Fernley/Fallon District continues its enforcement efforts toward a positive reduction in crashes. Combined, the district reports a .7% increase in enforcement over last year and a 9.5% increase in enforcement compared to last month. Extra effort has been put on hazardous moving violations, which resulted in a 38% increase compared to last year, and a 34% increase compared to last month.

Added to the Commercial Enforcement Strike Force efforts, the Fernley/Fallon District continues to implement the Level III commercial inspection program, with a 123% increase in total safety inspection compared to last month. The crash data is very positive, reporting a 46% decrease in commercial vehicle crashes compared to last year, and a 133% decrease in commercial vehicle crashes compared to last month. Continued monitoring of these reporting categories will be closely evaluated to determine if a trend of enforcement to crash ratio exists.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

The Commercial Enforcement Section will meet or exceed the goals and objectives as stated in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan and Size/weight program. At the end of May 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section was ahead in its year-to-date goals for Level I/II/III inspections, Level II/III enforcement inspections, interstate/ secondary roadway weight enforcement and compliance reviews. May is the eighth month of the Federal Fiscal Year and the year to date goal achievement percentages should be at 66%. The Northern Command had achieved 74.91% of its Level I inspections, 77.95% of its Level II/III inspections, 253.25% of its Level 2/3 enforcement inspections, and 77.18% of trucks weighed on interstate highways. The region is still slightly behind in hazardous materials and motor coach inspections.

During the month of May, Commercial dayshift personnel targeted hazardous material vehicles and the swing shift personnel targeted the motor coach inspections. The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will continue to direct enforcement efforts in these deficient areas. It is anticipated that all year-to-date deficiencies will be resolved by the middle of June.

The Commercial Enforcement section was down three positions during the month of May. One trooper was assigned to the traffic section as an acting sergeant, the second trooper was out on catastrophic leave for back surgery and the third trooper was on light-duty. The region leave time accounted for approximately 15% of the total time in May. The training/instructing time accounted for 11% of the total time in May.

The Northern Command Enforcement Section handled three property damage crashes. One of these crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with 26 other crashes. Out of the 26 crashes, three (3) involved a commercial vehicle or school bus.

In June, the CVSI's will continue with the spring inspection cycle of school buses in the Northern Command. The majority of the rural school bus inspections have been completed and the CVSI's will concentrate their efforts with the urban Washoe County School District buses during the first week of June. This is one month ahead of schedule. In addition, the Northern Command will continue to monitor the out-of-service rate of buses with the Washoe County School District. Once the bus inspections are completed, the CVSI's will work with Federal DOT personnel and complete the required number of Compliance Reviews (CR's). At this time, the Northern Command has achieved 100% of its compliance review goals.

The Commercial Enforcement Section did not participate in the Southern Command Targeted Enforcement Program (STEP) during the month of May. The Northern Command personnel have completed four of the six funded deployments to the Las Vegas area. The last two trips to Las Vegas will be scheduled in the near future. The STEP program is designed to saturate enforcement efforts in the high crash corridors in the Las Vegas Valley in an effort to reduce CMV crashes.

In May, the Commercial Enforcement Section continued with its "Strike Team" efforts in the Northern Command area. There were two (2) scheduled strike teams in which personnel were assigned to saturated CMV crash corridors. Both days recorded 29 inspections; 24 moving violations; 92 mechanical repair orders; 9 citations and 3 drivers placed out of service.

In June, the Northern Command Enforcement Section will be participating in a 72-hour check-site in Elko and a joint check-site with California Highway Patrol at South Lake Tahoe.

## **AIR OPERATIONS**

The two aircraft flying the Northern and Central commands flew a total of 101 hours during May.

19 Speed enforcement missions were scheduled; 13 were flown. 2 missions were cancelled due to a lack of manpower, 2 were cancelled due to inclement weather and 2 were cancelled to concentrate troopers for the opening of the traffic roundabout in Fernley. A total of 576 enforcement actions were taken; an increase of 82% over the prior year.

8 Prisoner transports were accomplished during the month, a significant increase over the prior year's 3 transports.

The NDI deputy chief and the DEA assistant special agent in charge of the Las Vegas office were transported to Winnemucca for meetings and back to Las Vegas.

Air 1 was on static display for the Eureka air show on May 13 and the Silver Springs air show on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The aircraft was also on display at the DOT hangar in Carson City on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for a presentation to the Carson City elementary school.

We are in the process of moving tools and equipment into the Elko hangar. The move will be completed in early June.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	May 2006	May 2005	% Change	April 2006	% Change
<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>					
Accident Reports Processed	341	400	-14.75%	291	+17.18%
Arrest Reports Processed	183	179	+2.23%	214	-14.49%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	8	3	+166.67%	11	-27.27%
Office Accident Reports Taken	12	19	-36.84%	12	0%
<b>COURT / WARRANT</b>					
Warrants Received	716	408	+75.49%	464	+54.31%
Warrants Entered	452	407	+11.06%	218	+107.34%
Warrants Cleared	422	675	-37.48%	398	+6.03%
Warrants Validated	486	198	+145.45%	111	+337.84%
Citations Processed	3971	1782	+122.84%	3597	+10.40%
<b>COMMUNICATION CENTER</b>					
Radio Transmissions	169428	102273	65.66%	109978	54.06%
CAD incidents	21608	11478	88.26%	14399	50.07%

## FRONT OFFICE

The new Administrative Assistant II started on May 1, 2006. She has already been NCIC/NCJIS trained and entry-certified. She will be the backup to digital photos in the main film-keeper's absence. She has also been training on processing local arrest reports.

Sick leave increased slightly this period by 0.36%, with compensatory leave decreasing by 34%. Annual leave significantly increased, while paid overtime decreased by 31%. Overtime for pay is being utilized for basic warrant entry, which totaled an extra 200 warrants this period. Training increased due to the front office supervisor taking CISM training courses. One trainer and the new AAI utilized 32 hours this month towards the NCIC/NCJIS training, which was conducted in the computer room at the Academy in Carson City. All of the front office staff now has full-access NCIC/NCJIS certification for the next two years.

Office reports taken have remained steady at 12 for the month. Arrest reports decreased 14.50%. Incident reports taken by officers decreased by 27%.

## COURT WARRANTS

Regular citations processed increased by 10.40% from the last rating period. Warrant entry is current through the first week of January. One front office AAI is still being utilized as a trainer to the two new clerks in the warrants office on a daily basis. She has also been responsible for performing 7 court runs, processing 168 subpoenas for troopers, and handling 62 court documents with 35 court call-offs, while the Warrants Officer was on leave this rating period.

There was a 54% decrease in new warrants received. Warrants entered increased by 107% with new staff increasing their entering speed. Warrant clears increased this period by 6% and validations increased 338%.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Northern Command Communication center filled two PSD I and one PSD IV position during May. This still leaves us missing 13% of our allocated personnel. Both PSD I positions remain in training and the PSD IV will be released from training at the end of June to take over supervision of Swing Shift.

Total work hours lost increased by 123.74% since last month, primarily due to an increase in annual and comp leave. It decreased by 57.63% from the previous year for the same reasons.

Compensatory overtime increased by 13.33% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 203.68% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 120.52% when compared to last month. Both amounts are due to the increased number of vacancies in the Center as well as increased leave taken. The coverage of vacant positions accounted for 51.73% of the comp overtime and 53.23% of the paid overtime; 24-hour facilities for 38.80% of the comp and 9.95% of the annual, annual leave for 5.17% & 9.95%, and sick leave 0% & 12.94% respectively.

Radio transmissions increased by 65.66% over this period last year and increased 54.06% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 88.26% over last year and increased 50.07% since last month. The primary reason for the increase in transmissions is likely due to the new arrival of dispatch personnel as well as increased radio use by allied agencies. Increased reporting standards have also increased the use of CAD. The increase in incidents is primarily due to the increase in population reporting more and more information to DPS.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR**

We began the month of May with a number of ceremonies commemorating the fallen law enforcement officers in Nevada. Sworn and non-sworn personnel, along with members of our Honor Guard, attended the Hoff Memorial in Reno and the State Memorial in Carson City. Members of the honor guard also officiated at two services in Sacramento before traveling to Washington D.C. for National Police Week. The 5 members who traveled to our nation's capitol participated in a number of events honoring the law enforcement officers who lost their lives while serving in 2005.

Members of DPS who volunteered their time helped generate over \$17,300 dollars for Special Olympics Nevada at the annual "Cops on Doughnuts Shops" fundraiser with area law enforcement agencies at Krispy Kreme in Reno. Officers delivered doughnuts to area businesses, held a law enforcement vehicle display and hosted a motorcycle show and shine during the 3 day fund raising event. This function received an abundance of media coverage throughout the 3-day event to include live interviews with Channel 2 and Channel 8. Our next fundraiser for the year will be held in June labeled "Cops and Lobsters" which will take place at Red Lobster on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 9:00 pm.

The annual two week long, "Click it or Ticket" seatbelt campaign kicked off this month producing a number of pro-active and positive news stories for the department. Although the total number of seatbelt citations for the campaign won't be available until the beginning of



June, troopers in Northern Command issued 64 seatbelt citations and 10 child seat citations during the 3 day Memorial Day holiday weekend.

We are continuing to provide the community with 5 live traffic reports Monday through Friday on KOLO TV as well as 2 traffic reports on Cub Country 94.5 FM.

Department of Public Safety  
**Nevada Highway Patrol**  
Northern Command

357 Hammill Lane  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
(775) 688-2500

**Major Robert Wideman**  
*Deputy Chief, Northern Command*

**Captain Jacquelyn Sandage**  
*Administration*

**Captain Scott Jackson**  
*Operations*

**Lieutenant Jerry Seevers**  
*Administration*

**Lieutenant Roger Vind**  
*Fernley/Fallon*

**Lieutenant John Stewart**  
*Reno Urban*

**Lieutenant William Bainter**  
*Commercial/SIRT*

**Lieutenant Charlie Powell**  
*Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe*